

Appn. No.: 10/812,113
Amendment Dated March 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

MATB-401US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim to Priority under 35 USC §120

Applicants no longer wish to claim priority under 35 USC §120 as a continuation-in-part of Application Number 10/329,036. The specification is amended herein and a Supplemental Application Information Sheet is enclosed to reflect this change.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to examine all of the pending claims of the application based on the application filing date of March 29, 2004.

Pending Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 3, 5, 8, 15, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 31, and 32 include patentable subject matter, but have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim.

Claims 2-4, 15, 21, 24, 30, and 31 have been canceled.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the features of dependent claims 2 and 3; Independent claim 11 has been amended to include all of the features of dependent claim 15; independent claim 20 has been amended to include all of the features of dependent claim 21; independent claim 23 has been amended to include all of the features of dependent claim 24; and independent claim 26 has been amended to include all of the features of dependent claims 30 and 31.

Claims 5, 8, 17, and 32 have been rewritten in Independent form.

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The remaining dependent claims have been amended to properly depend from the independent claims.

Therefore Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 5-14, 16-20, 22, 23, 25-29, and 32-34.

Respectfully submitted,



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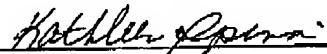
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Dated: March 30, 2006

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 18-0350 for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 VIA FACSIMILE 571-273-8300 on: March 30, 2006



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